REMARKS

Claims 1-66 were pending and were rejected. Claims 30-41 have been cancelled herein. Claims 1, 2, 12, 18, 24, 45, 52, 57, and 62 have been amended herein. The applicant requests reconsideration of all remaining rejected claims.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-66 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sprecher (U.S. 6,948,059). The applicant notes that claims 30-41 have been cancelled herein.

CLAIM 1

Claim 1 is independent and recites the following:

In a computer system including a first field-programmable unit including first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first field-programmable code, a second FPU of a second type including a second FPU code, a computer-implemented method comprising steps of:

(A) determining whether the first FPU and the first FPU code are compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code; and

(B) if the first FPU and the first FPU code are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code, notifying a user of the computer system of the incompatibility.

Claim 1 and all the independent claims include at least a first FPU and a second FPU in a computer system. Some of the FPUs in the independent claims have FPU

code associated therewith. Accordingly, the computer system has at least two FPUs connected thereto. Claim 1 determines if the FPUs and their corresponding software are compatible with one another. Therefore, a determination is made if the first FPU and its FPU code is compatible with the second FPU and it FPU code.

Claim 1 and the other independent claims differ significantly from Sprecher. Sprecher discloses replacing a device and determining whether the device and/or its software is compatible with previous versions of the device/software. For example, after a component is replaced, Sprecher determines which software version is in the new device and compares it to the software version of the old device, which is no longer in the computer. Accordingly, there is only one device or FPU in the computer of Sprecher. Thus, Sprecher does not compare one FPU to another to determine their compatibility, wherein both are in a computer system.

The summary of Sprecher describes the process of updating and checking versions of software. Reference is made to column 3, lines 23-53 which describe the version checking of the software of a replaced component. Nowhere does Sprecher describe determining whether one FRU is compatible with another FRU installed on the same computer as claimed in claim 1.

Based on the foregoing, Sprecher cannot disclose all the elements of claim 1 and cannot anticipate claim 1. Therefore, the applicant requests reconsideration of the rejection.

INDEPENDENT CLAIMS

All of the independent claims recite both a first FPU and a second FPU connected to the computer system. Rather than reiterate all of the independent claims, the applicant incorporates the traversal of claim 1 into the traversal of the rejections of all the independent claims. More specifically, Sprecher only discloses checking software versions of a replaced component.

The applicant notes that some independent claims have not been amended. However, these claims, such as claim 42, include a computer system with a first FPU and a second FPU. The compatibility of the first FPU is checked with the second FPU similar to claim 1. Therefore, these claims check compatibility with more than one FPU installed into a computer, which, as stated above, is much different than Sprecher.

Based on the foregoing, the Sprecher does not disclose all the elements of the independent claims and cannot anticipate the independent claims. Therefore, the applicant requests reconsideration of the rejections.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

All of the dependent claims depend from allowable independent claims. The dependent claims are deemed allowable by way of their dependence and for other reasons.

Respectfully submitted,
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